

# FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

762.00/7-2161

FROM The American Embassy PARIS

85

TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

July 21, 1961

REF

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SUBJECT: Conversation of Soviet Ambassador Vinogradov with Ambassador Gavin. NSA-4  
NSC-1

Attached is a memorandum of a luncheon conversation between Soviet Ambassador VINOGRADOV, the host, and Ambassador Gavin. Other members of the two Embassies participated, but the conversation was largely between the two Ambassadors. Most of the conversation focussed on Berlin, and Vinogradov followed current Soviet emphases: A peace treaty this year, separately with the GDR if an agreement with both Germanies cannot be obtained; the main danger lies in the ability of the FRG, under "revanchists" like Adenauer and Strauss, to provoke a war.

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.:

*R.A. Kidder*

Randolph A. Kidder  
Counselor of Embassy

Enclosure: *att*

Memorandum of Conversation  
dated July 19, 1961.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/LR

REVIEWED by *HEM*

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From Paris

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION  
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Paris, July 19, 1961

PARTICIPANTS:

Soviet Side

Ambassador S. A. Vinogradov  
Minister-Counselor S. S. Nemchina  
Counselor V. Snegirev  
First Secretary S. A. Kuznetsov

American Side

Ambassador James A. Gavin  
Counselor for Political Affairs Randolph A. Kidder  
First Secretary Thomas B. Larson  
Attaché Jan Libich

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Ambassador Vinogradov was the host at a luncheon on July 18 at the Soviet Embassy for Ambassador Gavin. (The most recent such affair was Ambassador Houghton's similar luncheon more than a year ago.) From a gastronomic point of view, at least, the luncheon offered a fine collection of (mostly) Russian dishes.

Vinogradov initiated a discussion of Berlin in saying that the Soviet proposals were not meant to advance any specific Russian interests and contained nothing against American interests. The Soviets hoped to have a peace treaty signed with both German states by all the powers which had been at war with Germany. If this failed they would definitely sign a peace treaty this year with the GDR.

Ambassador Gavin said that the US was resolute in defending its rights in Berlin, that the USSR could not deprive the US of the exercise of its rights, gained in World War II by force of arms against the Germans. The US was prepared, if necessary, to go to war to defend its rights, and the Russians should not misunderstand this. The Ambassador pointed to his long association with the Berlin problem, recalled the friendly relations he had had with certain Russian officers at the end of the war, and the hopes they had shared of peaceful, friendly relations. These had been disappointed, and the US had been disillusioned by Soviet behavior in Korea, etc.

Vinogradov referred to the necessity of bringing to an end the temporary arrangements in Berlin put into effect 16 years ago, and said

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the Soviet proposal was motivated by concern over West Germany. Not that the USSR was afraid of the Federal Republic, but the latter was under control of "revanchist" types like Adenauer and Strauss (whose name he had difficulty in recalling) and these might provoke a war. This was the basic reason he alleged for the necessity of resolving the Berlin problem. Vinogradov became somewhat choleric in talking about the West German leaders. He also picked out General Speidel for criticism, implying that the Germans would take over in NATO and use it for aggression against the USSR.

Ambassador Gavin said that it was necessary to integrate Germany into the Western family of nations. He alluded to the sorry experiences of the peaceful nations in dealing with Hitler, who fed on his gains and always wanted more, and said that we would not repeat this mistake with the Soviet Union. When Ambassador Vinogradov professed peaceful Soviet intentions Ambassador Gavin said that the Americans were sure that the Russian people did not want war, but that they thought Khrushchev did want this during his lifetime.

Vinogradov complained of West German claims in regard to Berlin, and said that the West Germans had no rights there. He alluded to the (scandalous) fact that German Ambassador Blankenhorn (in Paris) issued invitations for French deputies to visit Berlin, which was completely outside his prerogatives. Vinogradov put strong emphasis on the USSR's objection to the Federal Government-West Berlin relationship. It was pointed out to Vinogradov that the Federal Republic, by agreement with the West Berlin authorities and the Western occupying-powers, carried on the foreign relations of West Berlin.

To emphasize his point on the peaceful pursuits of the Soviet people and their desire for peaceful competition, Ambassador Vinogradov referred to the fact that the next Party Congress--which he would attend--would adopt a new program outlining an economic plan for the USSR to cover the next 20 years. He said that this contemplated provision of many free services to the Soviet population, including lodging. The 20-year plan would result in the USSR surpassing the US in all fields of production. This, of course, was not aimed at the US, but mentioned in the context of friendly competition. Ambassador Gavin wished the USSR well and said that increased production of consumers goods everywhere would be welcome to the US.

After passing out Cuban cigars, Vinogradov said that he regretted that we were so harsh on Castro, that actually Batista was a wicked man. He then launched into a bitter diatribe about what Batista had done to the Cuban

people./

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people. Ambassador Gavin in reply said that it reminded him of what Khrushchev said about Stalin. Vinogradov looked a little surprised and asked the Ambassador if he had heard Khrushchev's remarks. When the Ambassador said that he had read them in the NEW YORK TIMES Vinogradov broke into laughter, slapped him on the thigh, and said, "Well, we all have our problems." Vinogradov then said that after attending the Party Congress in October he would come by and tell the Ambassador what had gone on. The Ambassador told him that they had better come up with a pretty good plan because we are going to give them lots of competition, to which Vinogradov said they would.

Snegirev, who did most of the interpreting at the luncheon, omitted from his translation into Russian several of Ambassador Gavin's remarks, including the comparison of the policies of the USSR with those of Nazi Germany and the reference to Khrushchev on war in his lifetime.

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